

defense and the world in its shared obligation to confront and defeat the insidious forces of terrorism.

God of peace, hear our prayer. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW led the the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. STABENOW thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is going to be a period of morning business until 10 a.m. this morning with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders. At 10 a.m., the majority leader or his designee is to be recognized, and at that time there will be an effort to move to the conference report on terrorism. A rollcall vote is expected on the motion as soon as possible. At 10:45, the Senate will vote on cloture on the substitute amendment to the Homeland Security Act.

There is much work to be done today, including completing the homeland security legislation. The chairman of the Banking Committee is here, and also the chairman of the Rules Committee, the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD. They have worked long and hard on the terrorism insurance legislation. The House passed that last night, and that will be passed as soon as possible. We are not going to leave here until that legislation is passed—whether it takes the next 10 minutes or the next 10 days. Both leaders have indicated it will be passed. It is something the White House wants very badly.

Finally, we have things worked out. We now have a conference report. I don't know it if has been given to us yet. But, if not, it will be presented shortly.

I would indicate for all those who are listening that there are ways: For example, someone could call for a quorum. Of course, we could call for a live quorum immediately. That is going to happen.

We are not going to have games played with terrorism insurance any longer. This legislation is supported by the President of the United States and the two leaders. It passed the House, and the legislation is going to pass.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Connecticut.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND TERRORISM INSURANCE

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I am curious, if I could get the attention of the distinguished majority whip, what is the plan this morning, if I can inquire of how we are going to proceed?

Mr. REID. We, of course, in 55 minutes, are going to vote on cloture on homeland security. Prior to that time, it would be our desire to move to the very important antiterrorism legislation that has been here for more than a year. We are going to do that. We would like to do it by unanimous consent. As the chairman knows, it is a nondebatability motion to move to that matter. We are going to have a vote on that in the near future. We do not know exactly when.

We are going to try to get a unanimous consent agreement, perhaps, to only have one vote and get rid of the legislation. That would be preferable, rather than trying to mess around with a cloture motion on it because, if necessary, we will file cloture on it.

Mr. BYRD. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. BYRD. Is the Senator talking about a conference report when he says it is a nondebatability motion? Is he talking about a conference report?

Mr. REID. Yes. What I am talking about is, we have terrorism insurance legislation passed in the House last night.

Mr. BYRD. Is that a conference report?

Mr. REID. Yes, it is a conference report.

Mr. SARBANES. Will the Senator yield further for a question?

Mr. REID. Yes. I am happy to yield.

Mr. SARBANES. I am taken aback by the notion that we are not going to be able to go to this legislation by some unanimous consent, that we are going to have to invoke cloture, and all the rest of it. I do not quite understand where that opposition is coming from.

In fact, it passed the House on a voice vote without any opposition whatever expressed over on the House side. And this is something that has been laboriously worked over under the very effective leadership of my very distinguished and able colleague from Connecticut. I was operating under the assumption that we would be able to go to it in short order.

People will want to make some speeches and explanatory statements, I would assume, although I don't see any need for any lengthy debate or a long involvement of time in order to finally conclude this legislation.

Mr. REID. I respond to my friend, the chairman of the Banking Committee, logic, reason, common sense has not applied to this legislation. We have worked on this for more than a year, and just when it appears we are over the hill, some phantom objection comes and we are not able to do it.

We are now at this point, and I think that what should happen is there should be a couple of hours. This is some of the most important legislation that has passed this body. It is extremely important to all sectors of our economy. I think we should have a couple of hours to explain the legislation and then have a vote on it and get it out of here and send it to the President's desk. I think that would be the preference of a vast majority of the people here.

But I want to make it very clear to everyone here, if we cannot do it in a logical, reasonable, orderly way, we are going to do whatever it takes to get this legislation out of here. If we have to work tomorrow, Sunday, Monday, this legislation will pass. And we are now in the procedural perspective where alternatives to slowing this down are very slim.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the Senator.

Mr. BYRD. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield to the President pro tempore.

Mr. BYRD. I hope we are not going to work on Sunday. That is a religious holiday for this Senator. We do observe religious holidays around here. Furthermore, I think the distinguished Democratic whip's mention of reason and logic and common sense should be applied to the homeland security legislation as well.

I hope all Senators within the sound of my voice here in this Chamber and listening on the TV—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time controlled by the majority leader has expired.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 1 minute.